

Message Text

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TAGS: ETRD FAO OCON

SUBJ: FAO INTERNATIONAL GROUP ON HARD FIBERS -SISAL PRICES

REF: ROME 4738

1. THE FAO INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON HARD FIBERS WHICH MET IN NEW DELHI IN MARCH 1977, REFTEL, ASKED THE FAO SECRETARIAT TO LOOK AT MARKET PRICES OF TWINES, SISAL, AND SYNTHETIC TWINES.

2. THE FAO SECRETARIAT HAS NOTE THE ABOVE REQUEST AND THAT THE 1977/78 TWINE SEASON HAS NOW BEEN OPENED AND IT APPEARS THAT IN SOME MARKETS PRICE IDEAS FOR SISAL TWINE HAVE BEEN MADE KNOWN BY SOME MANUFACTURERS. IN FACT, INITIAL QUOTATIONS FOR SISAL HARVEST TWINE SEEM TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER THAN PRICES RULING DURING THE PREVIOUS SEASON. PRICES FOR "IN SEASON" DELIVERY SEEM ALSO TO BE HIGHER THAN THE PRICE OF US DOLLAR 11.00 PER ALE. ACCORDINGLY, THE FAO HAS REQUESTED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FROM A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE U.S.

3. (A) CURRENT PRICE PER BALE OF 38-40 LBS FOR IN SEASON DELIVERY CIF PORT FOR IMPORTED SISAL HARVEST TWINE, INCLUDING IMPORT DUTY WHERE APPLICABLE, AND PRICE PER BALE EX-FACTORY FOR TWINE
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DOMESTICALLY PRODUCED.

(B) PRICE PER BALE OF 20 LBS OF POLYPROPYLENE HARVEST TWINE EX-FACTORY.

(C) COSTS OF MANUFACTURE OF SISAL HARVEST TWINE BROKEN DOWN INTO FIBER INPUT AND ACTUAL TRANSFORMATION COSTS.

(D) PREMIUM -IF-ANY-WHICH FARMERS SEEM TO BE PREPARED TO PAY FOR SISAL TWINE OVER POLYPROPYLENE TWINE.

(E) COSTS OF MANUFACTURE OF POLYPROPYLENE TWINE BROKEN DOWN INTO POLYPROPYLENE RESIN INPUT AND ACTUAL TRANSFORMATION COSTS.

(F) WHICH EFFECTS ON THE PRICE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SISAL TWINE AND POLYPROPYLENE TWINE MAY BE ASCRIBED TO THE PECULIARITIES OF THE MANUFACTURING AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS OF THE TWO TYPES OF TWINE?

(G) WHICH EFFECTS ON PRICE RELATIONSHIPS MAY BE ASCRIBED TO OVERCAPABILITIES --IF ANY--FOR POLYPROPYLENE TWINE AND FOR POLYPROPYLENE RESIN?

(H) WHAT WOULD BE YOUR ASSESSMENT IN BROAD TERMS OF THE PRESENT COMPETITIVE PRICE POSITION OF SISAL TWINE?

4. THOUGH THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FAO INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON HARD FIBERS IS NOT UNTIL EARLY 1978, THE FAO WOULD APPRECIATE THIS INFORMATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IN FACT, MR. LAMADE OF THE FAO SECRETARIAT MAY RAISE THESE QUESTIONS AT THE UNCTAD PREPARATORY MEETING IN GENEVA OCTOBER 3-7. GARDNER

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